

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CAB-09 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 FAA-00 SAJ-01

NIC-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /125 W
----- 125395

R 071505Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9599

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3429

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR RO

SUBJECT: RUMORED OVERFLIGHTS OF ROMANIAN AIRSPACE; SOVIET-
ROMANIAN FRICTIONS

REF: BUCHAREST 3324

1. AT REGULAR NATO EMB COUNSELOR'S MEETING AUGUST 7,
UK EMBOFF SAID LONDON AUTHORITIES HAVE ASSESSED TRANSPORT
AIRCRAFT TRANSITING ROMANIAN AIRSPACE RECENTLY AS LARGELY
TOURIST FLIGHTS TO BULGARIAN BLACK SEA RESORTS. OTHERS
HAD LITTLE TO ADD TO ALREADY CURRENT SPECULATION. DEPUTY
FOREIGN MINISTER PACOSTE DENIED FLATLY TO AMBASSADOR THAT
THERE HAD BEEN ANY SOVIET OVERFLIGHTS.

2. LOCAL CHINESE AND ALBANIANS WERE CIRCULATING VERSION
BEGINNING AT LEAST ON JULY 28 THAT "150 SOVIET PLANES"
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HAD BEEN SENT TO BULGARIA "IN CONNECTION WITH CYPRUS

CRISIS." THIS SOUNDS TO US LIKE CHARACTERISTIC CHINESE
MONGERING OF RUMORS ALREADY EXTANT RATHER THAN ORIGINAL
INFORMATION.

3. MEANWHILE, SCINTEIA JOURNALISTS TOLD WESTERN DIPLOMAT
LAST WEEK THAT SCINTEIA WOULD NOT HAVE REACTED TO "DAILY
EXPRESS" AND "DAILY MAIL" STORIES ALLEGING RUMORS IN
BUCHAREST ABOUT SOVIET LINK TO ROMANIAN INDUSTRIAL
ACCIDENTS (REFTEL) HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR PRAVDA ARTICLE ON
TOPIC JULY 29. JOURNALISTS GAVE IMPRESSION THAT ROMANIANS
HAD NOT BEEN AVERSE TO SPREAD OF STORIES OF SOVIET
PRESSURES FOR CONCESSIONS (E.G. LONDON "ECONOMIST" ARTICLE
ON DOBROGEA "CORRIDOR" IN EARLY JULY) BUT THAT THINGS HAD
RECENTLY GOT SLIGHTLY OUT OF HAND. INFERENCE WAS ROMANIANS
MIGHT TRY TO COOL IT FOR TIME BEING.

4. FIRST-HAND WITNESS ACCOUNTS CONTINUE TO ACCUMULATE THAT
AT PARTY AND EMPLOYEE MEETINGS IN BUCHAREST DURING JUNE-
JULY GOR PROPAGANDISTS EXPLICITLY BLAMED SOVISTS (AND
LESS FREQUENTLY OTHER EE REGIMES) FOR SABOTAGE, APPARENTLY
IN ATTEMPT TO USE SOVIET BOGEY TO EXPLAIN AWAY
EMBARRASSING DOMESTIC INDUSTRIAL MISHAPS, OF WHICH TACTIC
SOVIETS HERE COULD NOT FAIL TO BE AWARE.
BARNES

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